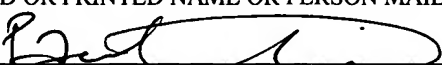


PATENT

Client-Matter No.: 66797-397

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants request entry of the following Preliminary Amendment and consideration of the accompanying remarks. The Preliminary Amendment is filed in connection with the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.